

THE
HISTORY
OF A
REPROBATE;

BEING
THE LIFE OF
DAVID DOUBTFUL.

BY MR. BROOKE.

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THE
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OF A
REPROBATE.

ONE day I went down the Thames in a barge, for recreation. As I drew near to the Custom-house-wharf, I observed a wherry, crouded with men whom she was about to land at the stairs; and, on inquiry, I was informed that they were slaves, whom our consul at Algiers, by his intercession or bounty, had ransomed and sent home.

Immediately compassion rose powerfully in my bosom. Alas! said I to myself, I see that I am not without companions in affliction. I ordered my people to land, and coming up to the late captives, My friends! said I, you are welcome once more to Old England! I am fond of hearing adventures; you also may have got your appetites; and if you will favour me with your company, I will order a dinner for us at yonder tavern.

I need not tell you, that the parties were soon agreed. While a plentiful dinner was providing, I met Alderman Bicker, a city-magistrate, and an old acquaintance of mine. Sir Thomas! said I, I insist on your dining with me to-day, at the Phoe-

nix there. Perhaps your companions will not appear to you of the most honourable sort. They are, however, good gospel-guests, Sir Thomas! and consist of the halt, the lame, the maimed, and the beggar. In short, I have invited all yonder ragged regiment, being about five and thirty slaves from Barbary, to dinner; and, after I have filled their bellies, I intend to give them some money to help them to begin the world again, and to keep them from being an encumbrance on their country.

After dinner was ended, a Constable, with a great number of his people, entered, who had been privately sent for by Sir Thomas. During dinner, eleven of our guests were discovered to be men of very bad lives and hearts, who were immediately secured. Having got rid of these guests, we will proceed, said I, between extremes. On the one side we will not minister fuel to the lusts of these unhappy creatures: neither will we leave them to perish; or tempt them, through want, to robbery, on the other side. Here, landlady, take this bill. Give twenty pounds to each of these seventeen fellows, and, if any of them, within a month, shall bring you a certificate of his good behaviour, give him twenty pounds more.

The poor wretches looked amazed, and scarce crediting the reality of the bounty that was ordered for them, they cried, Thank your honours, thank your honours! and withdrew. One of them, however, seemed to linger after the rest, and,

going out last, he returned again quickly, and threw himself at my feet. I am a *reprobate*, Sir, a mere *reprobate*, he cried, and am not worthy of your charity. Does your conscience condemn you then? said I. It does, Sir, it does. Then I condemn you not; rise, rise, and give me your hand, my brother!

He then told us his story, which I shall give you as nearly as I can recollect at this distance of time.

I know not, Gentlemen said he, who my parents were. I was found, when an infant, wrapped in rags on a cobbler's bulk, in Westminster. The parish-officers sent me to the poor-house; and, when I was capable of instruction, they sent me to the charity-school.

When I had learned to read and write, I was bound, for a servant, to Mr. Skinner, a neighbouring attorney. My mistress grew fond of me; she was a very holy woman; she taught me my prayers and catechism, and made me read to her every night, and repeat chapters and psalms, till I had nearly got half the Bible by rote.

As my master used to send me on many errands and messages, and to entrust me with little matters of money on such occasions, on finding me always punctual and honest to him, he began to love me almost as much as my good mistress did.

But now came on my first falling away from all goodness. I was about twelve years old, when, in a cursed hour, my master sent me to a distant

part of the town, with a bill to pay some money, and bring to him back the change. The change amounted to about four pounds in glittering silver. It appeared a mint of money. I never had been in possession of so large a heap; and I sighed, and said to myself, How blessed must they be who are become the rich owners of so much money! Then some one seemed to whisper me, that I was the owner; and again some one seemed to whisper me, that I was not the owner. Then I would go forward toward my master; and again I would stop and go aside. Then I would thrust my hand into my pocket, and feel the greatness of my treasure, then turn to the wall, and lay the brightness of it before my eyes. Then I would run a piece off, as hurried away by the force of the temptation; and again I would delay, and stop, and turn, and strive to force myself homeward. Till, what with doubting and delaying, and struggling off and on, and going backward and forward, I considered, that if I went home, I should now get nothing but blame and beating; and so I took a-head, and ran into the country as fast as my feet could carry me.

As I ran myself out of breath, from time to time, I would look back and look back, and run on and run on, in the thought that my master, or some one from him, was at my heels. But often since, I have reflected, and was persuaded in my mind, that my kind master and mistress had not the least suspicion of me, but rather inquired and sorrowed after me, as being murdered or kidnapp-

ped from them ; and this also was, at times, a great grief of heart to me.

When I was quite tired and jaded, and night came on, I turned up to a sorry kind of an inn, or rather alehouse, which I happened to be near. But, as I feared every thing, I had the cunning to conceal my treasure, and taking a penny from my pocket, I begged the woman of the house, for that and charity's sake, to give me a little bread and milk, and some hole to lie in.

Having finished my supper, I was shewn to a kind of hovel under the stairs, where, throwing myself on some straw, with a piece of a blanket over me, I fell fast as a rock. Awakening, however, about midnight, or somewhat after, and seeing all dark about me, and no creature near hand ; I began to tremble greatly ; and then I wished to say my prayers, but I did not dare to pray ; and so I lay sweating and trembling, and trembling and sweating, till the dawning of the day brought some relief to my spirits.

Having breakfasted at the cost of a second penny, I set out, though not with my former speed ; for, reflecting that I had not my livery on, but a small frock-coat, I was under the less fear of being known. However, I pushed on as well as I was able, wanting still to get as far from danger as possible. And indeed I hoped, by going on still further and further, to get away from my own fears and from my own conscience.

O ! what misery did I not endure at that season ? The trust I had in my treasure began now

to abate, the dread of losing it also brought new troubles upon me; peace was banished from within me; and without there was no place whereto I might fly for rest.

On the fifth morning of my travels, having expended what half-pence and small silver I had; I took out half-a-crown, and offered it to the man of the house, desiring him to return what was over the reckoning. As he took it, he gave me a look that I thought went through me, and continuing to stare me in the face, he shamed me so, that I was constrained to turn aside. He gave me the change, however, and I set forward on my journey, all trembling, and apprehending I knew not what.

I had not gone above a mile, when, meeting a dirty road, I turned over a stile that led to a path through the fields. Here I walked on a little way, when, turning, I saw my landlord making long strides after me; whereupon my heart beat, and my knees grew so weak under me that I stood as still as a stone.

He came quickly up with me, and, seizing me by the neck, he cast me on my back. Ha! you young rogue, says he, let us see what money you have got. Then, diving into my pockets, he pulled out the whole stock in which I trusted for happiness. O, you little dog of a villain, from whom have you stolen all this treasure? But I must go and return it to the right owner. O, good Sir, good Sir, I roared out, will you not leave me a little? ever so little, dear Sir, to keep me from

starving? But he was deaf to my cries and prayers, and away he went.

Hope, the last comfort of the miserable, now forsook me. I cursed, at my heart, the day in which I was born; and I lay a long time, as one who had no use for limbs, nor any further way to travel upon earth. At length I broke out into shouts and a great gush of tears, and having got some ease by venting my sorrows, I rose, by a kind of instinct, and went on I knew not whither.

Growing hungry after noon, I would willingly have begged the charity of passengers; but this I did not dare to do, for fear they should ask me whence I came, and who I was, and whereto I was going; questions to which I could give no very honest answer. So I bore my hunger as well as I could, till coming at night to a hovel where a farmer kept his pigs, I made way for myself among them, and slept in the straw till morning.

The day following, as I passed slowly and half famished through a small village, my eye caught at a penny-loaf that lay on a little shop-window which jutted into the street. I looked here and there, and peeped into the shop, and was just going to seize the ready and tempting spoil; when something whispered at my heart, Do not touch it for your life, starve, starve, rather than offer to steal any more; and so I tore myself away, and running as fast as I could, for fear of turning back, I at last got clear off from the reach of this temptation.

When I had travelled something farther, I got into an inclosed country, where there were hedges on every side, with plenty of haws and bramble-berries on every bush. And here I filled my belly with berries to serve me for dinner; and I stuffed my pockets with haws against I should want. Upon this I grew wonderful glad that I had not taken the loaf; and peace again began to come upon my mind; and, about night-fall, having reached a copse on one side of the road, I crept, like a hare, under the shelter of the bushes; I then supped upon my haws, after which I kneeled down, and half ventured at a prayer to God; and gathering up in my form, I slept happily till morning.

Having lived thus for some days, I came into an open country, where there was scarce any path, nor any haw or berry within many a mile. I now began to grow sick and faint with hunger; and again my sickness went off, and I became so greedy and ravenous, that I was ready to eat my own flesh from the bones. Soon after, I spied, at a distance, a confused heap of something at the root of a great tree that grew in the open fields. I made up to it in expectation of I knew not what; and found an old beggar-man fast asleep in his patched cloak, with a bundle of somewhat lying beside him.

Instantly I opened his little baggage, when, to my inexpressible transport, a large luncheon of brown bread, with some halfpence, struck my eyes. I did not hesitate a moment about seizing

the bread; for I could no more withstand the cravings of my appetite at the time, than I could withstand a torrent rushing down a hill. Having appeased my stomach, I began to demur about what I should do with the remainder of the bread, and felt a motion or two inclining me to leave it behind me. But, "no, said I to myself; this is all the bread that I have, or may ever have during life, and I know not where to get a bit in the whole world; beside, I do this man no harm in taking it away, since I leave him money enough wherewith to buy more." So I put the bread in my pocket, and went on my way, leaving behind me about four or five pence in the wrapper.

I had not gone far, however, before I said to myself again, "This man is a beggar by trade, and gets halfpence from every passenger that goes the road. But, alas, no one living has any pity upon me; and so to starve alive, or take the money, is all the question." So saying, or so thinking, I went back on tiptoes, and stooping and seizing my prey, I flew away like lightning.

As soon as I had got out of the reach and sight of the poor man, the first motion I felt was the joy of having such a prize; but I had not gone far till this joy was much abated, my sighs began to heave, and my tears to flow apace.

That night, I took up my lodging in a waste hut that lay a little way off the road. But though, as I thought, I had plenty of bread, and money enough about me; yet I found myself exceeding

heavy, and I was not able to pray, as I did the foregoing nights.

During all this time, I neither knew where I was, nor whereto I was going, nor any thing more of my travels than that I came from London. When I had spent to my last penny, and was walking, slow and melancholy, on a by-path that led through some woody lawns, I heard the voice of merriment, and, quickly after, perceived a group of gypsies that came from behind some trees.

As I saw that I could not escape them, I gathered courage, and went forward, when, coming up, they stopped and eyed me with much attention, and made a ring about me. Where are you going, my child? says a man with a broad girdle and a very formidable beard. Indeed, Sir, said I, I cannot tell. And where did you come from then? From London, Sir, so please you. From London, child? why, that is a very great way off. And pray what made you leave London? To get away from my master. But I hope you did not come away empty, you brought something from him, did not you? Some little matter, good Sir, but I was robbed of it on the way. Hereupon, this venerable regent smiled, and, turning to his dependents, As far as I see, said he, this chap will answer our purpose to a hair.

Here one of the females asked if I was hungry; and, on my answer in the affirmative, they all invited me with a jovial air to dinner. We then turned a distance off from the path wherein

we had met, and gradually descended into one of the pleafantest spots in the world. It was a dell furrounded with hills, some of which were flanting, some headlong and impending, and all covered or spotted with groups of trees, of different heights, forts, and colours; through which there descended a gurgling rivulet, which, having rolled over stones and pebbles, grew filent in a small lake, that reflected the circling objects from the hills around.

Immediately nature's carpet was covered with a large cloth of fine damasked linen. The baggage was taken from the shoulders of the bearers; and, before I well could observe what they were about, there was spread, as by art-magic, before my eyes, the most various and sumptuous banquet I had ever beheld. Down instantly sunk the guests; some fitting, like the Turks, cros-legged; while others lolled, like the Romans, beside each other.

As they had travelled far that day, they all eat in filence; and, in a short space, the burden of the luggage-carriers was pretty much lightened. In the mean time, some arose, and unladed two asses of the creels which they carried. The cloth then was quickly emptied of the cold fowls and baked meats, with the loins of beef and mutton; and leather-jacks, that contained plenty of the best wines and other liquors, were set before us. These, again, were decanted into clean jappanned pitchers; and a jappanned cup, of equal measure, was given into every hand.

Then began mirth and jollity to flow round with the cups; never did I see so pleasant, so gleeful a company. Joke and banter, without offence, were bandied from every side; and bursts of laughter were echoed from the answering hills.

As soon as I was warmed, and my heart opened by what I drank, they all expressed a liking and kindness for me, and requested that I would tell them my story without disguise. Accordingly I made an ingenuous confession of all the matters related. But, instead of meeting those reproofs which I expected for my wickedness, they jointly began to ridicule my scruples, and put to shame the little shame that I had of my evil-deeds.

My child, said their ancient governor, when you have been a sufficient time with us, you will then learn what it is to be wise and to be happy. You will then know that religion is nothing but hypocrisy or fashion. There are thousands and ten thousands of religions upon earth, all contrary, and fighting the one against the other. People pretend to fear God, when it is the fear of the laws alone that is before their eyes. God is not to be feared, but to be loved, my son, for he is a very gracious and a bountiful God. He gave the heavens, in common, to the birds of the air. He gave the seas, and rivers also, in common to the fishes. And he gave this whole earth in common to mankind. But great people, and people of power, have seized it all to themselves, and they have made to themselves possessions and properties by fences and inclosures;

and they have again inclosed those inclosures, by laws of their own making, whereby the poor are to be punished, when they attempt to reclaim any part of the natural rights with which God had gifted them. But when the poor, without fear of the laws, can gain any thing from the rich and the mighty, who have robbed them of their rights, they may surely do it with a safe and an honest conscience. And now know, my child, that you are come among those who, of all people, can best defend you and make you happy. We are of that sort of the poor who are above the rich and the mighty, by being above the laws; for they can frame no laws which are of any more force to us than the web of a spider.

So spoke this formidable sage; and indeed, however strange it may seem, I saw the latter part of his assertion fully verified by practice. I continued among this very singular and wonderful people, near the space of three years; during which time they initiated me into all the arts and mysteries of their manifold iniquities. No fetters could hold them; no prisons could contain them; no bolts or locks could secure the treasure of the wealthy from them. By the means of spells or certain odours, as it were by enchantment, all beasts became subject to them; the wildest horse would stand for them; the fiercest mastiffs did not dare to bay or growl at them; so that all bleaching-grounds, yards, and gardens, were as open to their invasion, as the high way. They assumed all shapes, and almost

all sizes. They became visible and invisible, known or unknown at pleasure; for every different dress they had a different countenance and set of features; so that their daily intimates could not know them, except by appointed words or tokens. And thus, without violence or apparent fraud, without bustle, indictment, or accusation on any side, they over-ruled the government, and held, as it were, the purses of the whole nation in their hands.

You will wonder, by what policy these people could maintain their influence and depredations, undetected, throughout the kingdom. I will account for this matter as clearly, and as briefly as I can.

Though they never appeared by day, except single or in small parties of ten or fifteen at most, yet they kept their state entire, by quick and constant intelligence. Beside, their prince or principal potentate, who was the person that first accosted me, they had a deputy-governor for every shire; and, at convenient distances, houses of common resort for the fraternity. Here their victuals were dressed and their provisions laid in, and here also were deposited the spoils of the public, which, when converted into money, was locked in a strong box, one tenth for the use of the society on any emergence, and the other nine for the benefit of the spoilers, in proportion to their respective ranks and merits.

Before we rose from our late-mentioned festival, an ancient female fortune-teller chucked me

under the chin, and said, Do you know, my dear, where this same kind landlord lives, who robbed you of your money? All I know, said I, is, that he lives in a little town, at the sign of a white cross, and near to a great windmill. What, cried one of the men, my old host Jerry Gruff? He hates that any, except himself, should prosper by their ingenuity. I owe that fellow a fling, cried another, for once attempting to circumvent me in his own house. Well, my lad, says Geoffry the old governor, his house lies directly in the way of our circuit; and, for your encouragement, I promise you that he shall refund you every penny of the money he took from you.

The luggage being now up, we went back on the field-path by which I came; and coming to a great road, we divided into small parties, who were appointed to meet at the rendezvous, where we supped merrily, and slept soundly for that night.

We set out, the next morning, by the dawn of day, and entering soon after upon a common, we saw a parcel of horses feeding without a keeper. Immediately three of the likeliest were taken from the rest. Out came scissars and other implements, with phials of colouring essences, and to work went many hands, when, in less than five minutes, had the owners come up, they could not have found a single mark of their own property upon them. And indeed I have frequently known some of those, my ingenious brotherhood, so very audacious as to sell, in public market, the cattle,

which they had stolen, to the very persons from whom they were taken.

As these people were never unprovided of their conveniencies, the horses were quickly bridled and dispatched, by several emissaries, several ways, to summon the neighbouring brotherhood, on the third night, to meet near the white cross with their appointed apparatus.

Accordingly, on the evening of the night required, we arrived on a little hill that stood opposite to the house of my conscientious landlord; and, soon after, we were joined by several parties, from several sides, amounting to about a hundred and twenty persons, with parcels of which I knew not what upon asses, &c.

The packs were quickly opened, and from thence were produced black and flame coloured gowns, flambeaux, hoofs, and horns, and vizards of horrid aspect and terrific dimension. In a hurry, we were all fitted with our respective dresses and characters. A large pasteboard coffin was covered with a white sheet, and exalted upon the shoulders of four fiery devils; and, as night began to fall dark, and heavy upon us, a light was struck, the flams were lighted, one was put into every right hand; speaking-trumpets, with other instruments of heart-sinking sounds, were put to many a mouth, and we directly set out on our diabolical procession. Some roared like bulls, others howled and bayed like dogs at a midnight moon, while others yelled articulately in the caterwauling gibberish; in short, the sounds made such a

complication of horrors as no mortal ears could abide, nor mortal courage support.

Mean while the town took the alarm, and began to be in commotion. Old and young quitted their houses, and hurried hither and thither through the street. But, as we advanced, they made backward, and running, or climbing, or scrambling up the hill, they gathered all in a body before the windmill. In the interim, we pushed forward, and entered the inn, where neither cat nor dog, nor living creature was left, save Goodman Gruff, who lay impotent of the gout, in an upper chamber.

While most of the company staid routing and searching the house below, Signior Geoffry led a few of us up stairs. He represented the person of Lucifer, whose name was impressed in flaming characters on this cap. On entering the room where landlord Gruff lay, Hark ye, Jerry, says Lucifer, you sneaking thief, you mean petty-larceny villain! how came you to rob a child, the other day, of the money which he gained under my influence and encouragement? I have a mind, you scoundrel, to strike you out of my list of innkeepers. O, my good Lord Lucifer, cries Gruff, with a trembling voice, in my conscience, now, I did not think that any kind of robbery would be an offence to your Honour. You lie, you rascal, you lie, cries Lucifer, the devil is a gentleman, he loves those who rob the great, who have robbed the little; but he hates your low-spirited scoundrels, who rob the widow, and the fatherless, and take from the

little ones the little that they have. Why, pray, my Lord Lucifer, are you a Christian? cries Gruff. A better one, rascal, than you or any of your tribe; for, though I tremble, yet I believe. And I tell thee, Jerry, that I will make this generation to tremble; but, as I think, the devil himself cannot bring them to believe.

During this confabulation, the whole house, drawers and all, was gutted as clean as a fowl for supper. So, without entering into any other habitation, away we marched as in our former tremendous procession; till, coming to some standing water, we halted, and, at a given word, we all together plunged our torches in the pool, and instant night fell upon all the world.

Thus, from day to day, and year to year, while I continued with this people, I was a witness to a variety of sleights, deceits, impostures, metamorphoses, and depredations, without any instance of their being brought to condign punishment. One of them, however, within my time, was detected, taken, imprisoned, brought to the bar, tried, and brought in guilty; and yet found means to evade justice by the most marvellous piece of stratagem that ever was.

He was spied in the act of stealing a bay horse. Fresh suit was made. He was seized, and loaded with irons in the dungeon of the county-goal. On the day of trial the fact was proved by incontestable witnesses; and the jury, without quitting the box, pronounced the fatal word *Guilty*. Have you any thing to say, cried the judge, why sea-

presence of death should not be pronounced against
 you? I can truly affirm, exclaimed the culprit,
 that I am as clear as the light of this matter;
 that the beast which I took, then was, and, to this
 hour, is my own property; and that there must
 be some wonderful mistake in this business;
 wherefore, my Lord, as I am upon life and death,
 I trust that your charitable indulgence will order
 this same horse to be brought into the court. The
 horse accordingly was brought, and the culprit
 continued, Now, my Lord, be pleased to order the
 witnesses to say, whether this be the same horse
 that I stole or not? The same, the same, cried the
 witnesses, by virtue of our oaths. Be so good
 then, my Lord, to ask them of what age this horse
 was, at the time that I stole him? By virtue of
 the same oath, four years old, rising five. Now,
 my Lord, if you will continue your gracious
 indulgence, be pleased to order his mouth to be
 examined by some people skilled in such matters.
 This also was done by two or three jockeys, of
 acknowledged judgment, who instantly cried out
 Why, my Lord, this horse is quite passed mark
 of mouth.

Hereupon every person that was present looked
 astonished, and silence was in court for some
 minutes; till the culprit resumed. There is but
 one request more with which I shall trouble your
 Lordship; it is, that you would be pleased to send
 and examine whether this same horse be a horse
 or mare. This lastly was done, when the exa-

miners cried out, A mare, my Lord, without any question!

Here the surprize and amazement of the court was redoubled. The jury looked down abashed; the witnesses slunk away in utter shame and confusion; and his Lordship instantly ordered, that the prisoner should be dismissed without fees, and that the mare should be restored to him as his proper goods.

Now, the whole mystery of the affair was merely this, that some of the fraternity, the very night before the trial, had picked the lock of the stable, and, in the place of the horse, had substituted this mare, which they found or formed to so perfect a resemblance of him, that no eye could discern the smallest distinction.

During my sojourn with these wretches, may it please your Honours, I found by dear experience, that, between the birth and the grave, there are but two sorts of happiness, of which man is capable. The one is, that of a *conscience void of giving offence*; the other is, that of a *conscience that cannot be offended*. I was therefore perpetually miserable, because neither the one nor the other was my state: for, on the one hand, I was conscious that I gave daily offence to God and man; and, on the other hand, my conscience was daily offended thereby. I was merry, indeed, though not happy, when in company, but ever dejected when left alone; so that, during my three years incorporation with this fraternity, I never once lifted my heart in any appeal to God, nor ventu-

could read? A little in the Bible, Sir, said I. And can you write too, David? If you please I will try, Sir. Why, David! this beats the hand of my clerk; where in the world did you come by all this learning? From a very good master to a very bad servant; but pray, Sir, do not enquire the particulars of my naughtiness; for, indeed, you could not desire a severer monitor than my own conscience is to me. Well, my child, said the good man, I will not put you to pain; and so, giving me a squeeze by the hand, he went out with a glistening eye.

From this time my master shewed an uncommon respect and attention to me. He discharged me from all the menial offices of his household; he gave me his burdens of filks, and other wares to carry to his several customers; and he desired me to take particular notice of the nature and values of what I carried.

On this encouragement I became vastly more apprehensive and assiduous than he looked for. I attended the shop closely, and took notice and private notes of all that was estimated or transacted therein. My master looked quite amazed, on asking me some questions with respect to his affairs. His eldest apprentice, soon after, set up for himself. He then placed me behind the counter, over his younger apprentice, and in joint authority with his journeyman. And, soon after, he gave me the key of his till, and the trust of all his treasure. I now dined with him at the same table, and consulted and

conversed with him as his friend and companion. He frequently gave me pocket-money, which, he told me, he would not charge to the account of my wages. I walked with him every evening, went to church with him every Sunday, and read to him in the Bible, every night. I was now wholly reconciled to my God, and felt him in my soul as a friend and benefactor. Pleasure played about my heart, peace lay under my pillow; and my happiness seemed as a ship that, after a long and desperate voyage, had anchored in a calm and secure haven.

I now had been something upward of a year in the service of Mr. Felton, when one day I heard a bustling noise in the street, and saw people running hither and thither across the window. I stepped to the door, and, looking to the left, saw a great croud about a cart, wherein were five criminals going to execution. I staid till they came just opposite to me, when, to my utter astonishment and terror, I saw five of my old acquaintance, and, in the front of them, the bloody villain who had proposed cutting the throat of the unfortunate pedlar. Instantly I turned all pale as my shirt, and, dreading that they would know and claim acquaintance with me, I shrunk in, and running backward, threw myself half fainting into a chair.

I now reflected, that it was happy for me no one was in the shop to take notice of my confusion; and endeavouring to assume some courage, on the entrance of our journeyman, I put on the

most unconcerned appearance that I could.

Mr. Felton happened to dine abroad that day, and did not return till the cloth was laid for supper. He took his chair at table, and desired me to sit beside him. David, said he, is it not wonderful that people should continue so incredulous, notwithstanding the frequent and daily proofs of an all-seeing and an all-detecting Providence? If a sparrow falls not to the ground without the notice of our God, how much more will he take account of the life of him whom he formed in his own image? The villain trusts to hide his villany, and dares to affirm (with the first murderer) in the face of God and of man, *I know not where is my brother*. But blood has a voice, a crying voice, David; it cries aloud to heaven, from the very bowels of the earth. No depth can cover it, no darkness can conceal it, for the light that shineth in darkness, will bring it forth to the day.

About twelve months ago, a pedlar was murdered in a waste house, called Fielding's barn. The murderers were of the people whom they call Gipsies, the most subtil and evasive of all sorts of reprobates, so that the fact lay a long time in silence. This pedlar, it seems, had an only brother, to whom the reversion of his substance belonged; and this brother, not seeing or hearing from him of a long time, went through the whole country, and through many parts of the kingdom, inquiring after him. At length he arrived, one evening, at an inn some

miles from hence, where he found in the kitchen, seven men jovially seated over a bowl of punch; he quickly accepted their invitation, and having spent the time pleasantly, and the house being thronged, he and one of the company were shewn to the same bed.

About midnight, his companion began to moan most piteously, when, jogging and asking him why he groaned? O, Fielding's barn! he cried, Fielding's barn! Fielding's barn! Again, he cried, You cannot say it, you cannot say that my hand was in the murder. Again he would mutter, with a half-smother'd voice, See, see, how he struggles, see how he kicks; put, put him out of pain, O put him out of pain!

Hereupon the brother rose, and dressed as quietly as possible, and, making away to the next magistrate, he returned, seized, and carried off his bedfellow, before any of his comrades were apprised of the matter.

What have you done, you villain! said the magistrate without preface, what have you done with the body of the pedlar whom you murdered in Fielding's barn? On this question, the wretch, thinking that all was detected, instantly fell on his knees. I had neither hand nor heart in the murder, Sir, he cried; and if you will get me a pardon, I will faithfully tell you the whole affair. On his confession, the five principal rogues were taken before they were out of bed. And on his evidence, and that of their seventh companion, they were sentenced, and

this day executed, and are to be gibbeted in the morning.

During this narration, I could not refrain from expressing, by my countenance and gesture, the strong compunction I felt on recollecting my long association with those reprobates; but my good master, as I suppose, ascribed my emotions merely to the detestation which I had of their deeds.

I had been close upon two years in the service of Mr. Felton, and he had lately agreed with me at 25l. yearly, whereof he paid me the last year's wages in hand; when one evening, as I stood behind the counter, a young woman came in and desired to see such and such goods. While she was cheapening on the one hand, and I setting forth the extraordinary value on the other, several intelligent glances were exchanged between us. Whenever her eyes met mine, she instantly cast them down with a blushing modesty; and yet whenever I looked at her, I saw that her eyes had been fixed upon me. At length having bought some little matters, she made me a bashful courtesy, and going out at the door, she turned upon me with a significant glance, and departed.

All that night I felt myself as I had never felt before; I turned and turned again from the image of this girl, and yet she seemed to stand before me, and to look, and to look upon me, as she had done the day before.

For five tedious days she with-held herself from my sight, and I feared that I should never

see her any more. At length she came, and I strove in vain to conceal my joy on her appearance. After cheapening and paying for some little matters, she cast her eye on a piece of silk, which, she said, she fancied greatly, but feared that her pocket would not reach so far. O Miss! said I, we shall not quarrel for such a matter, provided I know where to call for the money. On Sarah Simper, Sir, said she, at such a sign, in such a row.

As I had three or four spare hours from business every evening, I gladly laid hold of the occasion I had gotten for spending that time, in visits to my beloved. I went indeed, without forming any purpose or intention, save the pleasure of seeing her. Her fondness seemed, at least, to equal my own; and, though we proceeded at times to toying and dallying, yet for three weeks we kept within warrantable limits. But this was not always the case. Our first transgression was succeeded, on her part, by tears and reproaches, and, on mine, by a depth of sorrow and remorse.

As this was my first fault, with respect to woman, my conscience was yet unsteeled. I spent the night in sighs and tears of contrition; and I repeated a thousand promises and vows to my God, that I never would be guilty of the like again.

For five entire days I kept from going to her. At length I considered, that, as I had injured her, I ought to make her such recompense as was in my power. I put about twelve pounds into my

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pocket, being all that I had left of my last year's salary, and went and told her that I was come to take my leave of her; then, pouring the money into her lap, I promised to give her what I should earn from time to time, and to marry her whenever I should be enabled to maintain a family. Here we both fell into tears, and from tears we proceeded to caresses, and so forth, till at last we became as guilty as we had been before.

In like manner, for the six ensuing weeks, I kept on in a course of repenting and sinning, and of sinning, and again repenting. Every night I formed resolutions which I imagined would be stronger than any I had made before; but whatever force I put on myself, whatever strength I exerted, I never was able to persevere for three days together. When I felt myself drawn to her, as by some irresistible power, I vowed, and flattered myself on the way, that I would return without transgressing; but, when I came to her, I found it quite as impossible to keep from sinning with her as it was to keep from her. Thus, by frail and falsified vows, I daily continued to add to the heap of my guilt; till at length I became hopeless of any ability to resist temptation, and sinned on with my eyes open, and yet with less remorse than before.

As I was sitting with her one evening, a bailiff entered suddenly, and laid an action upon her for fifteen pounds, which, he said, she promised to pay for her mother in her last illness. Whether the debt was feigned, and the caption

preconcerted between them, I know not; but I afterward recollected, that she did not seem to be so alarmed, as one would have expected on such an occasion. On the other hand, my soul was filled with bitter and distracting thoughts. I could not think of suffering my love to be confined among fellows in a common prison; and yet how to come by the money, I knew not. I offered the man my note payable when my salary should be due; but he refused to depart without instant payment. Hereupon I hurried home, and taking out 15 l. of my master's money, I returned and discharged the action.

From this time my fair-one began to extend her appetites, and to rise in her passions. Under colour of being with child, her longings and fits came frequent upon her, and I was in a manner constrained to indulge her till I had taken of my master's money to the amount of fifty pounds.

David, said she one day, it is time to tell you that I must soon quit my mantua-making business, for I am growing too big to appear with decency among my customers. So you must take other lodgings for me, and provide a sufficient fund to defray the many necessary expences of childbirth. And where, my dearest Sally! may such a fund be provided! I have already gone lengths for you that may bring me to the gallows. If you had not been a poor-spirited fellow, says she, you could not bear to live in the fears that haunt you so; you would long since have made away

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with that old scoundrel your master. Here, throw this little dust into his broth, or his posset, and then you may wallow in money without fear of account.

Here I looked her full in the face, when every beauty that had once enchanted me, suddenly vanished from my sight, and I saw nothing but the dire head of a snaky Medusa. However, I suppressed my horror as well as I could; and putting back the paper, No, no, no, no, Sally, said I, I would rather die the worst of deaths myself, than have a hand in making away with my kind old master. And die you shall then, she cry'd, for I will not perish alone. She then dropped on her knees, and vowed, with fearful imprecations, that she would go directly to Mr. Felton, and make a discovery of my robberies; that she would also go to the next magistrate, and swear a rape against me; and that she would poison herself, and the bastard within her, that she might not bring into the world any part of such a villain.

While she spoke, her aspect looked livid and deadly, and wrath and desperation flashed in fire from her eyes.

My dear Sally, said I, lower your passions a little, give me that paper again; we shall see what may be done. And here I leave you my watch as pledge of my return by to-morrow at noon. This I did, however, not with the smallest intention of keeping my promise; for I determined never more to look her in the face.

But I bequeathed to her, as it were, the only stake of value which remain'd to me, that the wretch whom I had ruined might not be left altogether without means of life.

When I got into the street I hastened homeward, without deliberating a moment on what I was about, or on the consequences that might ensue. My master was in a back chamber, looking over some letters, when I rushed in precipitately, and shut the door behind me. What is the matter, child, says he; are you not well? You look pale and affrighted; what is the matter, David? O Sir! O Sir! and I sunk upon my knees, I bring to you a villain, a reprobate, a thief, a robber, a betrayer of trusts, also the vilest sinner that ever sinned against God and against man. I got in league with a bad woman who seduced me by her beauty, and then prevailed upon me to defraud and rob you, and would have persuaded me to murder you; but there I stopt short; I could not be prevailed upon to murder you, my master! Pray then, said he somewhat sternly, to what intent are you come? To demand justice, Sir! I cried, and to appease my own conscience by suffering for my faults. Tell me then, said he mildly, and tell me truly, of how much money have you defrauded me? Of fifty pounds, Sir! I answered, a few shillings under or over. Rise then, pray rise, my David! he cried; I would not bring you to shame, and much less to punishment, for five times the value of fifty pounds. I owe you, for your ser-

vices very nearly that sum, and I forgive you the remainder with all my heart. No, Sir! I cried aloud, and burst into tears, you do not forgive me, you cannot forgive me, for this your goodness does but heap the heavier guilt upon my soul.

He then got up and came to me, and raising me to his bosom, he embraced me, and cried, I rejoice over thee, my David, I rejoice over thee, my child, as Heaven rejoiceth over the one sinner that repenteth, more than over the ninety and nine that have no need of repentance. You now know your own frailties; you are sensible of your lapses, you will be cautious of future falls; and you stand upon firmer ground than ever.

You know me not, I exclaimed! You know me not, my good master. I am wholly irreclaimable. The devil has taken possession of me, and reigns through all my members. I find it quite in vain to strive or struggle against him. I have no more strength than a midge against temptation; no more power than a weak and fainting man against a torrent that already has borne him far away.

I will pray for you, my son, said the good man vehemently! I will wrestle with my God for you! and his grace shall be sufficient. No, Sir, I replied, after that which has happened, I never shall be able to look you in the face, I will not trust myself. I know that I should fall on the first trial. Will you leave me then, he cried, will you leave me, my son David? and he took out his handkerchief, and wiped away the fall-

ing tear. I must, I answered, I must leave you my dearest master, I should be miserable if I staid. I will go directly to sea, I will confine myself in some ship, where I shall be shut from any commerce or communication with mankind, and not have it in my reach to wrong or damage any person. And, indeed, I could not bear to stay in one town, or even in one kingdom, with that bad woman. Where may she be found, David? said Mr. Felton. Ah! Sir! I exclaimed, leave her to God, and to her own evil conscience, I beseech you. I believe she is with child by me. Do not desire, my master, to hurt a little innocent, that has not yet seen the light! No, my David, no; I mean nothing but comfort to her. I mean to supply her wants, and to soften her distresses. She will not then be tempted to wish hurt to her benefactor, and I will take care of the little wretch which she carries in her body, for your sake, my David.

There was something so affecting, Gentlemen, in such a proof of wonderful goodness, as must have struck to the heart of the most abandoned reprobate. I was quite overcome thereby. I fell suddenly at his feet, and I wished to pour out my very soul, in the same manner as I poured my tears upon them.

As he found that I was bent and determined on departing, David, says he, since you will go, you must not go unprovided. A sailor ought to have proper necessaries; and, if you will give me your company for three or four days longer,

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I will get you a good birth in some ship or other. Mean time I would advise you to set about your preparations; for which purpose you must accept these fifty guineas, which you may please to return me, when some happy adventure shall furnish you with means. No, no, Sir, I cried, putting his purse back with my hand, your plan is not the plan of your reprobate servant; your good births are not at all for my purpose. I will go as a common sailor; the meanest offices and the greatest drudgery will be a penance too little, much too little for my transgressions. And, so saying, I turned and went hastily out.

I made directly to the quay, where I saw a croud of citizens intermixed with sailors. On going up, I found that they were enlisting volunteers to whom they offered from one to three guineas *per* man. And what will you give me, Captain, if I go with you? He then looked earnestly at me, and, having eyed me several times, from head to foot, I will give you, my lad, said he, five guineas in your fist, and here is my hand for a hearty welcome into the bargain. If your Honour then will be pleased to order those five pieces to be laid out for me in such necessaries as you think fitting; I live at such a place, and shall be ready at a call. Enough, said the Captain, our ship is called the Centurion, of thirty guns, the brave David Jenkins commander. We set out by morning's tide, between ten and eleven; and if you come without a call, you will be the more welcome. So saying, he gave

me a familiar shake by the hand, and we parted.

I then went directly home, and, calling Mr. Felton aside, I told him of my success and engagement in the Centurion, suppressing only the time of my early departure; for I felt that I could not stand the parting with him, and I thought it best to make it as little painful to him and myself, as might be.

During supper, I endeavoured to chat, but I could not. And as Mr. Felton, at times, looked affectionately upon me, I turned my head aside, and a silent tear stole down my cheek.

I spent the night in sighs and tears, and, getting up before day, I took my shoes in my hand, and, stepping softly down stairs, would have stolen out at the street-door; but in that instant, the door of a side-parlour was opened, and, before I could look about, my master had me in his arms. Will you leave me, then, David, will you indeed leave me? he cried. O, David, David, I love you next to my only child. Stay with me yet, my son, O, stay with me, my David, and I will do every thing, I will do all things that may be done for you.

Here I sunk, and was just fainting, under the pressure of his goodness. Do not kill me, my master, do not kill me outright, I cried. You must no longer be burdened by my body of sin and death; as God has forsaken me, I must leave you, my master! let him do with me as he will, and if I perish, I perish. So saying, I broke from him, and away I rushed; weeping and sob-

bing all the way, as though my heart would cleave in sunder.

The captain received me with great cordiality, and at times called me his namesake, and was very familiar with me. The sailors also, after his example, began to affect me without any appearance of envy; for though I had not been exercised in their profession, yet I was strong, hale, and active, and ready to assist them at every turn.

In the mean time, please your Honours, it may appear very extraordinary, though I felt daily compunction, and nightly wept many tears for having offended my God throughout the course of my life; yet I neither prayed to him, nor besought pardon from him, nor applied to him for any kind of support or assistance.

I was now incorporated with a fraternity whose wickedness was of a species quite different from that of my former brotherhood. Our sailors were so far from cheating and defrauding, that they scarce seemed to have any regard for property; and they were as brave a set of fellows as ever trod a deck. But then they were as hardened to any sense of religion or piety as the nether millstone; and the sacred and tremendous names of God and his Christ, were of no other import to them than the balls of a billiard-table, to be tossed and bandied about for sport.

At first this was a matter of great offence and horror to me. Can there be a God, I would say to myself, and can he suffer his tremendous name to be insulted and blasphemed as it is by these

wretches? But, alas! I was not as one of the three captives at Babylon; I could not be cast into the furnace, and come forth without a singe. In time this profaneness became less irksome to my ears; and, by degrees, I began to relish and to catch the common contagion.

At times, however, some thoughts of God and a Saviour would come into my mind, and the pious impression of my infancy would return upon me; but I did my best to banish them, as they served but to torment me.

At times, again, I would silently expostulate, as it were, with God. It is true, I would say to him, I have been wicked, desperately wicked, through a long course of sinning; but did I not long strive, and struggle, and fight against temptation? If you meant me for yourself, why did you not make me with less proneness to evil; or why did you not give me greater strength to resist?

Again shocking and blasphemous thoughts would enter into my gloomy soul: As though the gospel were all a fable, and religion nothing but priestcraft: That all events were of chance: That men were good or evil, merely according to constitution; and that either there was no God, or he was too great or too distant to concern himself with the insignificant affairs of mortals. But these infusions of the tempter were never of long continuance; and again I would return to *believing and trembling*.

Our ship had been destined to protect the trade in the Levant. Within the space of five

months, we had rescued from the captors six English ships, and made prize of three stout frigates, of those African pirates who war upon the world; when the boy from the mast-head cried out, A sail! We immediately made chace, and found by evening that we had gained considerably upon her; but as the night came on thick and hazy, we shortened sail, and lay till morning, but hung out no lights.

At dawn of day, we renewed the chace, though no sail was then in sight; but we had not continued it above four or five leagues, when we clearly discerned the same vessel, and perceived that she altered her course, and was bearing down toward us.

Hereupon we shortened sail, and waited for her. But we had not waited long, till we perceived a second vessel that seemed in chace of the first; and sometime after saw a third that seemed in chace of the two former.

On this the lieutenant, an old and experienced sailor, looked somewhat blank, and desired that the captain would instantly call a council of war. Gentlemen, says he, the many captures we have lately made could not fail of informing our enemies that we are in these seas; and I apprehend, with great reason, that they have made choice of their best means to over-reach and over-match us, and to fall with their united force upon us. And indeed ye may already perceive, that the ship which we had in chace has shortened sail, and waits to be joined by her two consorts, whom she

seemed so lately to fear. I think as the jockeys say, that we have more than foot for them; and and all the question is, whether Old England shall make use of her feet to fly, while she has any hands left wherewith she may fight? At this they cried, with one voice, No flying! no flying! let them come on, the circumcised dogs, as many as may be of them; we will neither take nor give quarter, they or we must to the bottom! To work then, my brave lads! cries Captain Jenkins, for we are likely to have as warm a bout of it as we could wish.

To bustle went all hands. We had a clear ship in a moment; and, for the first time, stowed our hammocks in the nettings. The captain then choosing a dozen of the best marksmen, he disposed them in the tops, with strict orders to direct their fire only at those who appeared to be officers.

Our ship at this time was full manned with about two hundred and seventy spirits, all as ready and desirous to go and meet death as a beau to go to a ball, or an alderman to a feast.

The three consorts were now joined, as our mate had foreseen, and bore down upon us, right before the wind; and then it was that my sins came crowding into my mind, and I believe I was the only person of the ship's company who trembled.

They all came up with a desperate boldness; and while one attacked us on our bow, a second lay upon our quarter, while the third bore away

under our stern, and raked us fore and aft with her whole broadside; nor were we idle in the mean time, but plied our guns with such spirit and success as soon obliged them to sheer off.

Our ship was of English oak, and stood their shot to a wonder; our metal was also much weightier than theirs; but then they outnumbered us three to one, in men and in guns.

Having got out of the reach of our shot, they moved off, as intending to make their escape; but, having repaired their damage, as well as time would allow, they returned upon us with two-fold resolution and fury.

Then it was, Gentlemen, that such a scene was opened, as was sufficient to strike hell itself with horror.

They now entertained us with a new kind of warfare. For, getting up within pistol-shot, they tossed their granadoes or hand-shells among us, that were filled with broken bottles, and with rusty and ragged pieces of old iron. These did fearful execution, and our deck was quickly covered with blood and brains, and pieces of human flesh, while the noise of the cannon could scarcely drown the screams of the wounded, and the groans of the dying.

In this desperate situation we loaded all our guns with grape-shot, which made such havock among our enemies as obliged two of them to sheer away again as fast as they could, while the third kept playing upon us at a distance, till we forced her also to follow her consorts.

We now had leisure to clear our deck, and, with sorrowful hearts, threw our dead companions overboard.

Having once more set all to rights, we bore down on all three; but they crouded away from us, maintaining a running fight with their stern-chace; and as they levelled their shot almost wholly at our rigging, by evening we were incapable of further pursuit.

Mean while we had plied them with our cannon so well, that, as it began to wax duskish, we perceived the crew of the hindmost in much confusion, and making signals of distress to their consorts. Soon after we saw them heave out their boat, and they had scarce crouded into her, when their ship went down. Hereon we gave a great shout, which we repeated on seeing their boat overset. But, as the Moors are excellent swimmers, I suppose most of them got safe, and were taken in by their companions. In the mean space our most gallant Captain Jenkins had his right leg and thigh carried off by a cannon-shot; I think it was the last shot the enemy fired.

As I stood by my Captain's side, I caught him in my arms before he fell to the board, and cried out for the surgeons; but the effusion of blood was so great, and so impossible to be stanch'd, that we quickly despaired of any life for him.

As I supported him on deck with my right arm, he found himself growing faint, and turned

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his face to me. David, said he, I am not afraid to die, for I am a Christian. I believe, as surely as I am here, that Christ came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief; and he is so great and so gracious, that he will not suffer hell or the grave to disappoint him of an end for which he paid so dear a price. Here, my David, here is my purse and my watch, which I bequeath to your love as my last legacy; and here is my diamond ring with which I entrust you, as a token to my dear daughter, if ever it shall be your fortune to revisit Old England. And if you should go to London, my dear David, inquire out my good old friend, Alderman Bicker; tell him of my behaviour during your service with me, and that I beseech him to use his interest with our Protector, in procuring my pay for my poor sweet child.

And that I will, right heartily, cried out Sir Thomas. I will also speak a word for yourself, my lad; the Protector cannot refuse his favour to one who has had the honour of serving in the action of the Centurion, whose fame our very enemies have spread through Europe. But, pray, proceed in your narration; I long to hear the event of so interesting a scene.

Though we greatly grieved for our captain, we were still more concerned for the honour of England, lest our good ship should fall into the hands of the barbarians. For she now lay like a hulk on the face of the water. She could neither pursue nor avoid an enemy; and, though

she had been in plight, we had not hands left sufficient to work her.

Night came on apace; hostilities ceased on both sides; the pirates hung out lights to prevent, as we supposed, their parting from each other; and we mournfully called a muster of our men, in the dark; whereon we found that, of two hundred and seventy odd men, we had but fifty remaining, twenty of whom were wounded, though not disabled.

Come, my lads, cried the old Lieutenant, it is as good to be merry as sad. We have worked enough to-day to give us an appetite. Let us have something to eat, and a bowl of punch; and, if we die by morning, let us not die with cold hearts and empty stomachs. Moreover, for your encouragement, I take upon me to promise, that, if you will be guided, I will make you masters of one of yonder vessels before sun-rise.

We engaged compliance to a title; and accordingly, after we had refreshed ourselves plentifully, he ordered our boats to be heaved overboard, and let drive with the wind. We then set our watch, and went down to take a few hours repose.

Two hours before day we were roused by the Lieutenant, and the first thing we did was to bore a large hole in the side of our ship, about a foot below water, for which we had an occasional plug prepared.

As soon as the day dawned, we set watches to give us timely notice of the enemies approach;

and then lay down on our small arms, out of observation.

The pirates, as we presumed, held up their glasses; but, seeing neither men nor boats in our ship, they concluded that we had made an elopement by night, and came on without precaution or preparation.

As soon as they had arrived within about half a league, our watchmen, according to order, drew forth the plug, and, creeping upon deck, crouched down with us.

The consorts had agreed to board our ship on each side, in confidence of a rich and unresisting prize. But the moment that we heard the first of them rustling along-side, and perceived that they were beginning to get up our side, we jumped up, as one man, and setting up a great shout, and overturning all we met, leaped into their vessel.

Never was amazement like that of the enemy! They scarce made any resistance, and in less than a minute, not a Moor was left upon deck.

Mean time the other pirate had boarded our late vessel, almost to a man. They had heard, indeed, the shout, with the clamour and groans of their fellows, but did not rightly know what to make of it; till, moving close round the head of our former ship, we shot the few who were left in the second frigate; then, throwing out our grapplings, we towed her off, and then bored and sunk her in the face of her owners.

They thereupon set up such a yell of despair

and horror as was affecting, even to the hearts of their enemies. At length they turned the cannon of the Centurion upon us, but we soon got out of reach of their shot; and by the time we were about three leagues from them, we saw our good Centurion go to the bottom, the glorious tomb of her noble captain.

We now thought that, of about a thousand assailants, there was not one left to carry tidings to their native country of their defeat. But, going down to the state-cabin, I saw a young man richly dressed, and of a noble aspect, leaning wounded upon a couch, with three attendants about him.

As I entered, he gave me a look that seemed compounded of apprehension and courage, and accosted me in broken English, for he had travelled much, and resided for a season in London.

I know, said he, that I am your prisoner; I also know what I am to expect. Draw your cutlafs then, and let me join my countrymen! No, Sir, I replied, you have nothing to fear from me. A man, who deserves that name, owes nothing but love to man, except when he is assaulted; the brave see no enemy in the feeble or the conquered.

Where have you learned, he cried, the sentiments of my own soul? But your generosity shall lose you nothing; demand what ransom you please, and it shall be paid you. I am not commander in chief, I answered; but, as far as my influence reaches, you are free as air, and

shall be bound to us by nothing but your affections. Then, stretching forth his arm, Your hand, my brother! he cried, and giving me a kind squeeze, the tear came into his eye.

I went directly on deck, and informed our little crew, now reduced to thirtythree, of what had passed between the noble Moor and myself; and told them, I hoped they would be so generous as to make my promise good. To this the greater number gladly assented, but some of them murmured. Hereupon I remonstrated, that we were already rich enough; for we had brought all the money out of our own ship, beside the great treasure in the pirate-frigate which we had not yet divided. I further represented, that we knew not what the events of war or fortune might be; and that it would not be imprudent to make a friend on the African coast, who, in all appearance, was a person of high consideration; and, with these reasons, at length all appeared to be satisfied.

I then carried the pleasing tidings to my new friend, and took with me our only surviving surgeon, who dressed the wound in his thigh, which had been made by a musket-ball.

As soon as the surgeon had withdrawn, the noble Osmyn of Petra, for so he was called, presented me with his purse, and a carbuncle ring of extraordinary value, and pressed them earnestly upon me; but I as peremptorily refused them, and this refusal appeared to distress him greatly.

During the five days in which we continued

together, I had him as tenderly and as honourable attended, as our circumstances would admit; and I spent with him all the time I could spare from my duties and great fatigues upon deck, as all the hands we had were kept busily employed in splicing the ropes, refitting the mangled sails and rigging, and in repairing the breaches of the vessel, for our shot had bored her sides quite through in several places.

On these accounts we sailed but heavily, still making towards the Streights, and daily wishing to meet or be overtaken by some English ship of force, to which we might safely confide ourselves and our treasures.

On the sixth morning, having arrived within twenty leagues of the mouth, the day discovered to us, that we were almost within shot of a ship that carried English colours. Hereat we rejoiced with exceeding great joy, slackening our sail, and heaving out a small boat, ten of us slipped into it, and away we rowed with all our might. As we approached, we saw numbers, in English dresses, walking to and again on deck; and, getting alongside, they threw ropes over to us, and we mounted with great alacrity.

Hitherto we were so intoxicated with joy, that we had not the precaution to hail them, till we found ourselves in the very thick of our enemies. I looked round, and, seeing none but tawny and hostile faces about me, I civilly demanded who, and of what country they were; when a ruffian, gathering his spittle, spirted it full in

my face, and, at the same time, gave me a buffet on the side of my cheek. Then I did not once reflect either where or among whom I was, but with one stroke of my fist, I stretched him flat upon the deck; Then throwing up the heels of another who had raised his arm against me, he fell with his head foremost across his fellow; and twisting round on a third, who had seized me behind by the shoulder, I dragged him under me, and we fell together upon the board. Here a croud of them gathered over me, and, each helping to hold a leg or an arm, I was bound with cords that crushed my flesh to the very bone, and then tumbled with kicks, like a dog, along the deck.

Mean time my nine companions who had offered to interpose, were also seized and bound, and cast into the hold.

For about three hours I lay in excessive anguish, though, through a sort of stubborn pride, I endeavoured to suppress my groans. In the interim I felt the ship begin to move, and soon after I perceived all in bustle about me. Again I heard, from within and without, several discharges of small arms, and as I saw several Moors all lifeless or convulsed and biting the deck around me, I rightly concluded that the ships were engaged. I gave a long and deep groan, and I cried aloud, O, my countrymen! my brave countrymen! why am I not with you? why have I not the happiness of dying with you and for

you? and my heart was so wrung that I fainted quite away.

I afterwards learned, that my true and valiant fellows had refused to submit upon summons: That the pirate, seeing them so few, and being desirous of saving the frigate for their own use, had attacked them with small arms, which were warmly answered on our part; when having dropped or disabled above half of our brave English, with two of Osmyn's attendants who happened to be upon deck, they entered and mercilessly butchered the remainder, among whom was our old mate and surgeon.

Mean time I lay insensible to all that passed, till a ruffian, seeing me pale and lifeless, in all appearance, gave me a wring by the nose. Hereupon I awaked to the bitterest sensations. I remembered me of my gallant messmates, who had so loved and caressed me above my merits; and my tears, without sigh or groan, went in streams down my cheeks.

At length I heard a voice, a known voice, as I thought, crying, Where is my friend, where is my brother David? and turning my head a little, I saw my noble Osmyn just entering the ship.

O, Gentlemen! be not apt to judge hardly of all who have not learned Christ, by the form and by the letter. Osmyn, my Osmyn proves, that he may be in the heart of those who never acknowledged his name, although they have felt his power. And indeed, as the apostle writes,

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those who never learned his law, yet, having his law, or rather himself, in their hearts, shall be justified.

Having instantly cast an eye of searching love around, he 'spied where I lay, and coming and throwing himself beside me, he put one arm about, and cried, O, my brother! my brother David! is it thus that my people use you? I grieve, that you Christians should beat us all to nothing in honour and humanity. He then took out his knife, and, having tenderly cut my cords, he strained his own ability to help me to rise.

He then called for the captain, who came bowing to him with great respect. Their discourse was long and earnest. At length Osmyn rose high in passion, and gave the captain a back stroke with his hand across the face. I observed his choler swelling, almost to suffocation; but he suppressed his indignation, and retired in silence. I heard Osmyn then giving some orders to the men; but, as I was a stranger to their language, I knew not the purport of any thing that passed. Soon after, however, I saw my nine companions brought from the hold, and unbound. And Osmyn, turning to me, desired me to tell my people, that they were all free, and that as soon as we landed in Barbary, he would take the first means of sending them with honour to their native country. Ah! my Lord, I cried, I am sorry that you struck the captain; he has many adherents here, and will certainly seek some method of revenge. He dare not, he dare not, re-

plied my friend ; the villain would have disputed with me the property of my own frigate, which I manned and fitted out at my own expence. But if I hear or see any more of his insolence, as soon as we land, I will complain to the Dey my uncle, and have the rogue impaled alive.

He then ordered out the long-boat, and, turning to me, said, I am going, David to take an account of what effects are left in my ship; and I would take you with me if you were in a condition to go; but I will soon return, and in the mean time, order the surgeon to do his best for allaying the swelling in your limbs.

During his absence, the ship's company, and even the captain, whose name was Barbar, behaved themselves toward me and my fellows with great, though silent, civility; and a plentiful mess was served up to us for dinner. But during our repast I observed, that the captain called such and such of his men to the quarter-deck, where he held with them a long and whispering kind of conversation.

These fellows, as it seems, were the most barbarous and bloody of all their barbarous and bloody countrymen. Having taken the ship where-in we then were, a merchantman, carrying about twenty guns, they had massacred every creature on board, and then dressed themselves in the cloaths of the English, in order to inveigle others into the like calamity; while they dispatched their own frigate back to Tunis to get recruits.

My noble friend did not return till late in the

evening. He then ordered supper to be got ready, and the state-cabin to be prepared for him and me to lie in; but I whispered and besought him to excuse me for declining that honour, as I perceived that the favours which he did me, had already given much umbrage and offence to his countrymen.

I know not whence, or for what purpose, forebodings may come; but all that night, my spirits were exceedingly sad and depressed; and though my fellows and I were put to lie in a part of the ship, the most remote from my friend, yet I imagined that I heard secret treadings and mutterings; and again, at dead of night, that I heard the distant sound of trampling and struggling, as of people in doing and receiving violence.

I was still sore from the tyings and the bruises which I had received; when, toward the end of a sleepless night, a gang of armed ruffians entered the place where we lay, and loaded us with irons. They then took away all our cloaths and treasures, and threw to each of us a canvas shirt and drawers, as slaves prepared for the market.

The moment they laid their hands upon me, it occurred that they would not have dared to do it, if they had not first made away with my dear friend and patron; at which thought my soul grew instantly sick, and a dark cloud of sorrow fell heavily upon it.

Sore and shackled as I was, I got immediately on deck, and looked wistfully out to sea, but could discover no frigate. I then shuffled along

as fast as I could to the cabin, where I had parted the night before with my Osmyn, and looking in at the door, I cried aloud, Where are you, Lord Osmyn, where are you, my master! my friend! my dear Osmyn! where are you, where are you?

When no answer could be had, I returned wild with rage and grief, and notwithstanding my chains, had I not been disabled by my contusions, I should have done my best to throttle every man I met. But all I could do was to wring my hands, and roar aloud to all around. Ye butchers! ye cut-throats! ye villains of all villains! what have ye done with your Lord, what have ye done with your master, what have ye done with my friend, with my Osmyn my Osmyn?

For two nights and two days I tasted nothing but water, which I drank in large quantities, as my soul, as well as body, was in a ferment and a fever. On the third day, the captain fearing that I would die of grief, and that he should lose what he proposed to get by my sale, sent a kind of interpreter to me, to let me know that on the night in which I parted with Osmyn, he and the captain soon after had some warm words concerning their rights in the frigate, and in the English now on board; whereupon Osmyn swore, that he would not remain any longer in his ship; and that, taking with him a number of hands, he reembarked in the frigate, and directly set sail.

As this tale carried with it some face of a fact, I grew easier in my mind; and, on the

very day following. having anchored in the bay of Algiers, my fellows and I were taken into the town, and sold at public market.

I happened to be bought by one of the Dey's factors, who immediately sent me to work at his country-palace.

This work was a most stupendous undertaking. Above five hundred men had been daily employed in it for two years past, and yet a third of it was not done when I arrived.

A large lawn extended itself in the front of the palace, and here the Dey had ordered a great canal to be dug, and from its excavation a mount to be raised, whose base measured three hundred yards in circumference. The ascent was easy and spiral, much resembling the prints you have seen of the tower of Babel. The border of this ascent was adorned all the way with lofty cedars interlaced with all sorts of aromatic and flowering shrubs; and from the top, before I left it, was to be seen the bay, the shipping, the city, and country all around, while distant mountains on the one hand, and an extent of ocean on the other, alone bounded the prospect.

You will think it very extraordinary, Gentlemen, when I assure you, that, till I was in a state of slavery, my mind never was free. Hitherto I had been the slave of sin, and of appetite, of passions, and of fears. But here I counted to set up my rest for life. I had no parents, no wealthy kindred, no friend upon earth, to whom I might look for a pennyworth of ransom. There

was therefore no further prospect for me, there was nothing further left to incite my desire or to excite my concern; and I sunk gradually, as it were, down into the peace of my own nothingness.

I had lately been the possessor of the value of some thousands, and now I had not wherewithal to purchase a morsel of bread. But I looked back on the many scenes of my very many wickednesses, and I did not look up to, but looked down, before, my God, and cried, Not enough, it is not yet enough, O Lord! something sharper, something heavier! some punishment that may expiate and reconcile me to my God!

One night, as I lay on my bed of stubble, I looked up to God, through the cloud of my own iniquities, and said, In life, O my Lord, lay what thou pleasest upon me, but in the hour of death, save, save me from the judgment! Whereupon something within me said, Fear not, thou vile wretch, fear not, thou worm David, for nothing shall be able to pluck thee out of my hands. This gave me great consolation, and consolation was followed by peace, and peace was followed by pleasure; insomuch that I possessed more of the sweetness of heart-felt enjoyment, than came to the share of twenty sensualists.

The Dey or regent then being was called Ali Eben Buchar. He was a great warrior, and yet a man of an amiable character, which is rarely the case with Moorish governors. He had been at Constantinople when I was enslaved; and, on

his return, he was so solicitously engaged in matters of state, that he was at no leisure to come and see our works. Toward the end of the second year of my servitude, he arrived with a pompous train. He was a portly and comely personage, though his complexion was a deep olive. He expressed high delight on surveying what we had done; and he ordered a festival of three days to be proclaimed for his labourers, with sports, martial exercises, and prizes for the victors.

Great preparations were made for this entertainment. In a plain, on the left of the palace, a square of half a mile diameter was inclosed with pales; within which none were permitted to enter, save the Dey and his train, with those who laboured in his several works, amounting to about a thousand men. On one side, within the pales, a throne was erected with two seats, and lower benches were placed on either hand.

Early on the morning of the first appointed day, the festival was opened by the sound of the trumpets and horns, and other martial instruments.

It had been a custom, among us of the labourers who were young and active, when the day's work was over, to divert our fellows with various exercises and feats, such as wrestling, running, leaping, and tossing or trundling leaden balls, and so forth; I was, therefore, up among the soonest, in hopes of distinguishing myself on the occasion.

By the dawning, the city was emptied of its inhabitants, and crouds came on after crouds,

from all parts of the country, so that the pales were soon circled by an innumerable concourse.

Then came Ali, with his attendants, and entering the pale, ascended his throne, while his courtiers and guards arranged themselves behind.

Then were exalted, on poles, the prizes that were to be given to such of the slaves, or labourers, as excelled in tossing the javelin, or in hitting a distant mark with the bow or with the sling. But, as I had not been practised in these matters, I contented myself, for this day, with being a spectator. Some of the candidates, on this occasion, were extremely expert, and would send an arrow or sling a stone more directly to the mark than any European could shoot a musket-bullet; accordingly the generous Ali added freedom to the prizes which they had won, and immediately preferred them among his troops.

After this, Ali, to entertain his people, ordered a dozen of his courtiers to run at the ring. Immediately a number of neighing steeds, richly caparisoned, were led by lackeys into the lists. The young nobles, without stirrup or saddle, vaulted lightly into their seats, and turning or winding their fiery horses with wonderful command and address, gave high delight to the spectators. Each of them caught a javelin which was tossed to him by an attendant; and, setting out, successively, almost at their speed, three of them, in mid-course, bore off a small ring of brass, from the thread by which it hung, on the point of his lance.

After this, again, a great number of burlesque comedians entered the pales, in order to act one of their African drolls or pantomimes; some of them represented men, some tygers, lions, and bears; others ghosts, and others goblins. But I could make nothing of such a jumblement of intention, although it gave great diversion to the populace. And thus ended the sports of the present day.

While the people retired homeward, several waggons were drawn in, heavy laden with victuals and cooling liquors, wherewith all the slaves and labourers were plentifully regaled.

The second day was ushered in with the like pomp as the former; and prizes were set up for lifting the weight, for tossing the coit, and for pitching the bar.

At a little distance from the front of the throne, a ring was fastened to a leaden mass, that weighed about five hundred pounds, and above fifty adventurers successively attempted to lift, but not a man of them could move it. I then advanced, bowing lowly toward the throne, and putting my right hand in the ring, and exerting my powers, I raised it fairly from the ground, whereupon a great shout was suddenly given by all my companions who worked with me at the mount. Hereupon a black came up, of Herculean bulk and brawn, and, desiring that fifty pounds more should be added to the lead, he lifted and swung them in the air with apparent ease, and the prize was accordingly adjudged to him.

A large iron coit was then given to the competitors, and about a dozen of them tossed it to a distance that was thought extraordinary. I then took it up, and threw it three foot beyond the furthest. But again, the black slave came up, who was not of our company, and tossed it two foot beyond my cast, and consequently atchieved the second prize.

A long and massive bar was then presented to us, but all refused to take it in hand, till the same black seized it, and, putting one end to his foot, pitched it off to a distance that raised a cry of admiration. I then took my turn, and giving my whole strength and action to this single cast, I pitched it some inches beyond the throw of my rival, whereupon another shout was given and repeated. The black then was wholly enflamed by envy and resentment, and reclaiming the bar, and exerting all his force, he threw it to a length, that, on admeasurment, was judged to exceed my cast, and he proudly laid hold on the third prize.

The great Ali then ordered me to be brought before him. I went, and, bending on my knee, laid my head to the earth. Rise, said he; I obeyed, and he surveyed me with long and earnest attention. Young man, he cried, you have been this day something unfortunate, but you have not the less merit; put this ring on your finger, it discharges you henceforth from all kind of labour; but it does not enfranchise you, because, for the present, I do not chuse to part with you. I respectfully took the ring, and, again

bowing to the ground, retired in silence.

A tournament of the young nobles then ensued, wherein great feats of action and prowess were shewn. And the day ended with another droll to which I gave no heed.

The morning of the third day was opened as usual, and prizes were exhibited for wrestling, for running, and for leaping.

Immediately the black champion stepped forwardably forth, and challenged any to approach, who desired to be crushed to death, but not a man accepted this charitable invitation. Unwilling, then, that this boaster should carry off the prize without a contest, I stepped from my rank, depending more upon action than force to cope with him. We both stripped to our canvas drawers, and his looks and gestures menaced me with instant destruction. I advanced however to essay him and he stretched his arms toward me, as a vulture would reach his pounces to seize upon a chicken; when, springing instantly up to him, I put a hand upon each of his shoulders, and, vaulting lightly over his head, I turned nimbly upon him, threw up his heels, and laid him at his length on the earth.

As the contrast of our colours had rendered us remarkable to all the spectators, a shout was set up that rent the very elements. But the Black arose, and roared aloud, with his lion-like voice, for justice; and the judges, on weighing the matter, appointed me to another trial, forbidding further fraud.

Again we prepared to engage, and again my black adversary stretched forth his arms, with eyes flashing fire, and features distorted with rage; when retiring from him, as if dismayed, I shot forward like lightning, and springing from the ground, I pitched the whole weight of my body into his bosom. This staggered him some steps backward, when continuing to press upon him, I put one foot behind, and he fell under me, with a horrible squelch, upon the sand; and dashing my hand against his forehead, I sprung up lightly on my feet.

Here the people repeated their clamours, which were echoed for a long space from side to side; while I proposed to the judges, that if my rival was not yet satisfied, I would give him the other venture. But the Black was so far from being in plight for a third engagement, that he could not rise without help on either hand; and the prize, being a fine turban with a diamond button, was put upon my head.

The competitors for the race then came from among the croud, being fifteen in number, lightly equipt for the purpose; and I also put on a thin canvas waistcoat that came close to my body.

In the front of the throne, a long pole was set up, from whence we were to start; and another pole was erected on the further side, round which we were to run, and so return to the post from whence we set out.

We were all arranged in a line, and Ali himself was to give the word, when one of our fel-

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lows, either thinking or pretending to think that the word was given, started away, the rest followed, and I was left alone, quietly standing by the post. Why do not you set out? said Ali. When your Highness shall be pleased to give the word. Away, then! he cried, and away I sprung.

As I found that I was gathering them up very fast, I suspended my speed, and lingered behind the hindmost, till they had all turned the post, and extended in a long line before me. I then started away, and passed one, and then another, till, having passed them all, I left the foremost at a distance behind me, and seized the goal; whereon Ali himself gave a cry of admiration, which was answered from all sides by all his people.

I was then presented with a velvet tunic embroidered with gold; and some smaller matters were given to the two who came next to me in speed.

The candidates for the third prize then rose from the ground where they had sat to repose themselves; for they were the same persons who had been competitors in the race. A scarlet girdle was stretched along the grass, as a mark from whence the rivals were to set off on their leap. And each of them took a run, till they came to the appointed limit, and then sprung forward with their utmost agility.

As this, of all others, was the article of bodily exercise wherein I excelled, I stood by, as an unconcerned spectator, till the contest was over.

I then measured with my eye the length they had passed. Then, taking two men, I set them in mid-space, and placing a pole upon their heads, I took a run, and throwing myself head foremost over the pole, I turned in the air, and alighted six inches beyond the furthest leap; whereupon I was presented with a collar adorned with gems of great lustre.

Ali then ordered two troops of his lightest horse to come forward. Accordingly they entered the pale, and, dividing, they retired to opposite sides of the lists. The populace then fell back and cleared the intermediate space, and the young officers set forward, on a half-gallop, at the head of their troops.

Never did I see such action, such horsemanship. The officers, as they rode swiftly forward, would toss their lances aloft, and then catch them in mid-air; and again they would cast them to a distance before them, and stooping, take them from the ground in the midst of their speed.

The troops then met, as should seem, in mortal opposition; and breaking their frail lances against each other, they drew the wooden sabres, and each, passing his adversary, gave a back stroke to his neck with such force and agility as was truly alarming. Their ranks then appeared to be broken on either part. And, instantly forming themselves into little rhombs, or squares, or wedges, they fought and mixed

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together, as in a country-dance, with the most regular confusion that ever was beheld.

This was justly delightful to all the spectators; and I regretted their departure, for the ridiculous entrance of a third pantomime.

While this droll was preparing, I received an order from Ali, to dress myself in the prizes which I had won, and to attend him.

I obeyed, and presented myself before him. What is your name, young man? David, so please your Highness. Are you of Christ or of Mahomet, Daivid? My will is with Christ, so please you; but, while I confess him with my lips, my whole life has denied him. Then, David, if you will but forsake Christ, and turn to Mahomet, you shall be the friend of Ali, and he will heap treasures, and titles, and great honours upon you. Ah, my Lord! I cried out, though I hold my Christ but by a frail and feeble thread, yet I would not quit that thread for a chain of golden links, that should bind the whole wealth of the world to my possession. And why would your Highness desire the service of a traitor? He who proves a traitor to his God, so please you, can never prove true to any master.

Well, David, said he mildly, we may talk of these matters hereafter. In the mean time, before I do you any grace, I ought at least to do you justice. You have already received the rewards of your valour and your activity, but you have not yet received the reward of your obedience. You were the only one, brave David,

who, at the risk of your own honour, attended on my word, and here I give you an earnest of the recompense that I intend you.

So saying, he presented me with a large and massive sabre, whose handle was studded with gems of great value. I received it on my knee; and he then continued, Ask me now, David, what further gift you demand, except your dismissal, and it shall be granted you, to a tenth of the treasure in my coffers.

When he had spoken, my eye was caught by one of his retinue, and immediately I recollected the features of the pirate Barbar.

I instantly cast myself prostrate before his throne, and cried aloud, Ah, generous Ali! may God multiply to you treasures and blessings a thousand-fold! I ask none of your treasures and possessions, O Ali! I only ask the head of that traitor, the head of Barbar; I ask but blood for blood: let him restore to me my friend, my brother, my Lord Osmyn; he is a murderer, a traitor, and such I will prove him by night or by day, by sea or by land; at any weapons, against any odds, I will prove him a traitor.

While I spoke, thus impassioned, all about appeared under the utmost consternation; and Barbar trembled and turned pale, but did not dare to quit his station.

Rise, David, said Ali, and tell me what friend, what Osmyn thou dost mean! All I know of him, my Lord, is, that his name was Osmyn

of Petra, and that he was nephew to some great prince in this part of the world.

Why, you dream surely, David, replied the regent, Osmyn of Petra was my own nephew; and he perished, with all his crew, by the hands of the English.

He did not perish by the hands of the English, I cried; the English were his preservers, his friends, his attendants, and he perished by the hands of his own countrymen, and more especially by the hands of this traitor Barbar.

Well, said Ali, we have not leisure at present, to examine into the truth of these allegations; Guards, take that Barbar into safe and close custody till we are better informed, touching the facts with which he is charged. Mean time do you, David, follow in my train, for you must take up your lodging with me, this night.

The palace, though it appeared one uniform edifice, was divided into two by an impassable barrier. The one was the occasional habitation of Ali and his attendants: and his wives, with their eunuchs, were lodged in the other, where it was impalement for any man, save Ali himself, to enter.

For three days and nights, after I entered his palace, though I was treated with an attention that gave me much uneasiness, yet I had not the honour of being called to his presence.

At length I was conducted by a private door to his cabinet. My friend David, said he, what hast thou to tell me concerning my dear and

brave nephew Osmyn? I then minutely, and at large, recited to him the particulars above related. And we shed many tears, that were mutually provoked by the tears of each other.

Having closed my narration, he cast his eyes down a while, as in deep meditation; and, raising them again, he said, The presumptions are strong, very strong against this man, and yet there is a possibility that he may be guiltless. And though Osmyn was my nephew, my blood, and almost my bowels, yet honour, humanity demands of us, David, that nine criminals should escape the punishment they deserve, rather than one innocent person should perish in his righteousness. But the great Alla may give us further lights in this business.

In about five days after a convict was to be ganced for the rape and murder of a free woman. He was to be thrown from the top of a high tower, from whose walls projected several sharp and shagged instruments, resembling hooks, sithes, tenters, &c. at certain distances, some below others.

He fainted several times as he was carrying to execution; and then being in an agony, he said he had a matter of the highest consequence to impart to the great Ali, and prayed to be brought directly into his presence.

I was on the spot when he was led in, and, looking earnestly at him, recollected that he was the ruffian who had spit in my face, and given me a buffet when I entered Barbar's ship.

Wretch, cried the Dey, what hast thou to say to Ali? That I am guilty, answered the convict, of crimes more hainous and capital than that for which I am to suffer; of crimes that nearly concern yourself, O Ali, but which you shall never know, unless you swear to me, by Mahomet, to mitigate the manner of my death, I do swear it, said the regent, provided the discovery which you make shall be found to be of due import.

He then deposed, that on the night in which Osmyn disappeared, the captain, with ten confederated ruffians, of whom he was one, entered the Prince's cabin, and having muffled the faces of him and his attendant, to prevent their crying out, bound them hand and foot, and heaved them through the window into a boat that waited for them: That then getting into the frigate, they massacred the seven Moors to whose care she had been left, and rifling her of all the money, and plate, and valuables they could find, they sunk the frigate, with Osmyn and his attendant in her, and then returned to their own ship.

Here Barbar was sent for, who was brought in chains, into the presence. But, as soon as he saw the face of the convict, without waiting to be confronted by his evidence, he rushed violently, with his head foremost, toward the opposite wall; and if a man who was at hand had not caught him by the chain, he would instantly have dashed his skull to shivers.

Ali hereupon, without further examination, ordered the head of the convict to be struck off in the morning, and Barbar to be impaled in the face of the people.

Never was joy like mine, on hearing this sentence pronounced against Barbar; and I rose early the next morning in order to have the pleasure of being at his execution.

He was so infeebled by his panics, that they were obliged to draw him on a sledge to the stake; and his countenance had all the impressions of death, despair, and hell, represented upon it.

This, however, did not affect me with any other sensation than of that delight which is naturally felt on the gratification of revenge, till the executioners, with unfeeling part, and merry tauntings, began to take the wretch in hand. But when I saw them, with difficulty and great violence, thrusting the stake through his body, which they run up withinside the spinal bone, and so out at the back of his neck, in order to avoid his bowels, and keep him the longer in anguish; when I saw him writhing in agony, and heard his horrible roars and groanings, all my revenge was quickly turned into terror and compassion; his pangs and sufferings, as it seemed, were transferred to my own person, and, had I not turned away, I should have fainted on the spot.

The Dey from this time became extremely fond of me, and familiar with me. He allotted

me an affluent pension, with slaves, horses, and attendants. He said I should be to him in the place of a nephew, and of a son, and he called me by the name of David Osmyn.

Some time after, tidings were brought that Caled Amurath of Fez, was making mighty preparations to invade his dominions. We will more than meet him half-way, cried the gallant Ali; perhaps we may even prevent his threatened expedition. He then summoned his forces from all quarters. I was present when he made a general muster of them. His foot were more formidable for their numbers than their discipline; but his horse were perfectly trained, and made a most brilliant appearance.

The day before he set out, I threw myself at his feet. I will go with you, my master, I will go with you, I cried. I will not have any command or post of preference or honour; I only desire permission to fight by your side, that you may witness how greatly I shall dare in your cause; how ready I shall be to take, to my own bosom, all the weapons that shall be aimed at your bosom, my father!

No, David, he replied, my people know you are still a Christian. I could not refrain from shewing the love I have for you; and that might be matter of jealousy and discontent to my captains. I will leave you here a band of soldiers, with whom you are to encamp within sight of my palace, and to keep these walls from violence, and my women from pollution. But, while you are

their guardian, beware that you do not turn an invader, David! I would pardon you any thing but this; I would not pardon you the invasion of my bed, David Osmyn! No, my Lord, I cried aloud, I cannot prove ungrateful. Though your women were as obvious to my walks as yonder pavement, and though adorned with more graces than their first mother in paradise, they should have no temptation for me, my master!

The next morning Ali began his march; and having escorted him a piece on his way, I returned to my charge.

That night, as I lay in my tent, I began to call myself to an account. David, said I to my soul, thou hast now gotten preferment, and riches, and honours; thou art, as it were, the second man in the realm, and all this people have thee in high estimation; but art thou the better or the happier man for all this, David? Far otherwise, far otherwise, O frail and vain heart! these gauds and these glories have taken hold upon thee, and they have drawn a painted veil between me and my God. To my chain, and my straw, and my nakedness! return me to them, O Lord! return me to my slavery, return me to my labours! I was not then, indeed, gaining conquests and winning prizes; but I was near to obtaining *the prize of the high calling*. My body was not then adorned with gold and pearl; but my spirit rejoiced in *the pearl of mighty price*.

In about five weeks after, as I was taking, by moon-light, my evening's walk of meditation, on

the marble that checkered the pavement before the palace, Muley, an old black, and the chief of the eunuchs of the seraglio, came up and accosted me. Osmyn, said he, taking a bundle from under his arm, I have here a present for you that would make proud the greatest emperor upon earth. It is a complete suit wrought purposely for you by the fingers of the Sultana, as also by the fingers of her fair and princely sisters. They have heard of your great achievements during the festival, and they send you this in reward.

So saying, he unfolded the robes to the moon. They were flowered with gold, pearl and gems of such a vivid lustre as reflected her beams with tenfold brightness.

And what is required of me, Muley, I demanded, in return for this inestimable honour and bounty? Nothing, said Muley, but a single hour's attendance, to give them a short sketch of your life and adventures. Take back your presents, I cried, there is poison and death in them; I will not betray the trust that our master has reposed in me. Nay, said Muley, I affirm to you that there is no such intention. Our ladies are all women of the severest chastity. I will undertake to conduct, and reconduct you back in safety. Neither can our master be betrayed in any degree. They all live together, they love like sisters, and no one keeps a secret from the other. However, they desired me to tell you, that, if you are of a fearful temper, they will not insist on the favour so much expected.

Here I felt myself piqued: No, Muley, I cried, I am no coward. I can dare all honest dangers. I will attend you. But I will not stay, Muley. I will let your ladies know, that, in the cause of honour and virtue, I can resist all temptations.

I then called a distant slave, who waited my orders, and, giving him the bundle, desired him to lay it within my tent. Where now, Muley? said I. I will shew you, said Muley.

He then led me to a large bucket, wherein water was accustomed to be raised, by pulleys, to the balcony, and there to be emptied into vessels that stood upon the leads.

You must not enter any door of the lower story, said Muley; for there our domesticks inhabit, and might, probably, observe you. But, if you get into this bucket, in a minute or two after I will raise you by the pulleys, and take you gently in.

Muley then went from me, and was admitted, on striking at a distant door; while I stood by the bucket, and, observing its first motion, jumped in, and was conveyed to the top of the palace.

Muley there received me in darkness and silence, and, taking me by the hand, led me down by a few steps into a narrow apartment that was scarcely enlightened by a glimmering lamp. He there left me again, giving me only a whispering promise that he would quickly return. I waited for him long, however, under great impatience of getting speedily back again.

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At length he came, and, taking me by the hand, without speaking a word, he led me through a long and dark entry, till, coming to a folding-door, he touched a spring, whereupon the door flew open on either side, and threw a sudden blaze upon my dazzled eyes.

The saloon, upon which it opened, was profusely illuminated, and most sumptuously furnished; but my attention was quickly called from such inferior objects. In the midst a board was covered with an elegant collation. Around it were placed a great number of small sofas; and behind each sofa stood a lady richly adorned, but veiled from the head to the waist.

Again Muley led me to the further end, while I made a low obeisance as I passed the company. He then compelled me to sit, where, by a small turn of my head, I could have a full prospect of each fair-one at table. Then, as by one motion, they were all instantly seated; and again, as by one motion, they all instantly threw up their veils, and I had like to have fallen backward with the suddenness of the lustre that flashed upon my spirit.

All the ladies smiled, and seemed delighted at my astonishment. The Sultana Adelaide sat nearest to me, on the right; and was no way distinguished from her sisters, but by a small coronet of feathered diamonds that was inserted in her lovely locks. Osmyn, said she, you seem something surpris'd; were you never in a seraglio before? Have you no seraglios in your country,

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Osmyn? No, madam, I replied, we have no seraglio in our country; but sure, no seraglio, upon earth, ever produced such and so many beauties as now strike my eyes. Heaven alone can exhibit such a constellation of luminaries.

Would you not wish then, said Adelaide, to have such a seraglio of your own? No, Madam, I answered; without love, in my judgment, there can be no true enjoyment; if ever I love, it can be but the one object, and her I shall love with my whole heart; true love will admit of no division. Here she looked at me with a tenderness that sunk into my soul, and, taking out a handkerchief, she weeped away a swelling tear.

Another lady then demanded if we had not a woman-market, and if they were not slaves in my country as they were here? No, Madam, I replied, our fair ones there are are not the subjects of merchandise, but the objects of admiration. No woman in England can be bound to any lover, save by her own affections. There it is death for any man to have more than one wife, and that after a suit, perhaps of several years. A lady there, of equal beauties to the least excellent in company, would be followed by hundreds of humble and sighing adorers. In England our actions are as free as our hearts; and the sensibilities of mutual love, between those of the sexes who feel that tender and enchanting passion, constitute the principal happiness of which life is capable.

Happy Englishwomen, happy Englishwomen! was echoed all around.

Alas, cried the lovely Adelaide, how very different is our fate! we are sold, like servile brutes, to any brute of a master. We neither love, nor are beloved; as you now have convinced me, Osmyn. We are subjected to vile desires, which we at once detest and suffer; and, when those desires are gratified, we are cast away as common lumber, to make room for some new comer. Even high as I sit here, the favoured Sultana of my Lord, I may to-morrow be appointed to the meanest offices of his household. This, surely, cannot be a marriage; for, as you have intimated, Osmyn, and as I feel in my own soul, marriage can only consist in an union of hearts. Love cannot be bought or sold; it is of too precious a nature; nothing can purchase, nothing compensate, save its value in love alone.

Here they pressed me to tell them my story; and here I confess, to my shame, that, however vile I appeared in my own eyes, I was ambitious of appearing as honourable and deserving as possible in the eyes of the fair Adelaide. I therefore suppressed what was black, glossed over what was offensive, and enlarged on every thing that I deemed advantageous in my own character.

The night was far spent, by the time I concluded; and the Sultana arising, proposed to shew me the curiosities of an adjoining cabinet. I accordingly attended her, and was astonished at the lustre, the richness, and profusion of

the jewels, as well as at the miracles of art that she displayed before my eyes.

On our return, we perceived that our company had absconded. Adelaide grew all crimson; and cast down her eyes. I also was confused, my heart began to throb, and I looked about for some pretence to make a quick escape. But—but—in short, Gentlemen, neither my resolutions, nor religion, nor honour, nor gratitude were of any avail against such a temptation; they fell together, an easy victim to the all-conquering Adelaide.

Adelaide was the first to press my retreat. It was not yet day. I found Muley in waiting. We came by the way we went, I stepped into the bucket, and he led me gently down.

As I approached the pavement, I felt a hand behind that seized me violently by the shoulder. I sprung out, and, seizing the wretch by the throat, would instantly have plunged my poinard into his bosom; but some power as suddenly arrested my arm, and said to my heart, Beware that thou add not murder to adultery, David!

While I hesitated, a number rushed upon me unaware, they griped me by each arm, and, wresting the poinard from me, they bound my hands behind, and led me to the cells of the Imams that stood something aloof from one end of the palace.

As soon as they had brought lights, What, Osmyn! exclaimed their chief, can this be our renowned Osmyn? Is it thus that you repay the

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favours of your generous and kind master? You are a Christian, cried another; has your Christ then taught you to betray the confidence and trust that is reposed in you? This was a home stab; it went through my heart; but I stood in a shamefaced fullness, and opened not my lips.

Here they went apart, and, having consulted a while, returned. Osmyn, said their chief, you are a brave and a wonderful man, and it is a pity to lose you. Your secret is yet with us; and we swear to you, by our holy prophet, and by the terrible Alla, that if you perform the single condition we enjoin, we will bury what we know, in a depth below the grave, and we will recommend you to the love of Ali, and the acclamation of all the people, and we will have you loaded with preferments, and riches, and honours. Name it quickly, I cried, whatever it may be, at the risk, at the loss of my life, I will perform it. It is, said he, no more than to abjure Christ, and to confess Mahomet, whose priests we are, and all the blessings of his paradise shall be showered down upon you.

Here I gave a deep groan; and casting down my head, and shedding a silent tear, without daring to lift my thoughts to heaven; No, no, I cried, though Christ is nothing to me, though I have no interest in him; though he spurns and has rejected me, for time, and for eternity; though I have daily denied him by every action of my life; yet my tongue shall never deny him. In poverty and nakedness, in dangers and in

dungeons, in death here, and in hell hereafter, my mouth shall confess him.

Here they went apart again, and, returning, told me that I should have two days to deliberate on their proposal; but that, if I did not comply, I should be impaled alive on the third morning, with all the additional tortures that art could invent.

They then put me into a covered kind of a waggon, and conveyed me to Algiers, where I was cast into a noisome dungeon, bolted down to the ground with irons, sustained with coarse bread and water, and not allowed a ray of light to divert my thoughts from the darkness and horrors of my situation.

Mean time I endeavoured to reinforce my resolution, by repeating to myself the sacred promise, where Christ says, *Whosoever will confess me upon earth, him will I confess before my Father which is in heaven.* Mine, indeed, said I, is but a verbal confession; but even that, with what I am about to suffer for his sake, may serve to make me less criminal, if not acceptable, in his sight.

I then longed to be brought to the test, while I shuddered at the thoughts of it. At length the day arrived. The Imams came and once more repeated the question; but I still persisted, though in terms that were scarcely intelligible, for my tongue cleaved with terror to the roof of my mouth.

They then stripped me to these drawers, out

of which also they took my money, with other valuables, and every thing except this insignificant walnut, and, having tied me to a sledge, I was dragged to the place of execution.

The chief Imam once more asked, if I would renounce the Son of David ! but I made him no answer, for I was unable to speak. I had seen the preparation ; the stake in the hands of the executioners ; the fires kindled about me with horrid instruments ready to be put therein, for the tearing of my frying and quivering flesh from the bones.

Could I then have had the confidence to have turned my soul to God, and to have besought his assistance in that trying and terrible hour, I make no question but he would have given me strength from on high, to defy all that man or devils could do unto me ; and I might now, in the regions of his bounty and his blessedness, have been pouring forth my existence, in the grateful and astonished sense of his mercy to such a sinner.

But when I reflected on the writhings of Barbar, the bare sight of which my spirit was not able to support ; when I saw such an apparatus of additional torments ; and when they took me in hand, for instant execution, I utterly lost my senses ; I shrunk inward with fear, my hairs stood on end with horror ; my tongue found sudden utterance, and I cried, Stay, stay, I will say, I will do whatever you enjoin.

The Imam then began to pronounce a form

of renunciation, which he ordered me to repeat after him; but I was so panting and breathless, that they were obliged to get a cordial for me to keep me from swooning.

As soon as my spirits were something restored, the Imam again began his impious ceremony, and I make no question but I should have gone through it, however abhorrent to my soul; but, in that instant, we heard distant shouts and cries, as of many people; the sound of the clamours drew nearer and nearer; and, soon after, we saw numbers hurrying to and from the city. Their words became now, as distinct as they were audible; Ali is slain, Ali is slain! was all the cry; and Amurath comes in full march upon us.

Here all turned suddenly from me, and, flying several ways, left me unbound and alone, sitting close by the stake. Seeing this, I began to recover from the fearful and faint condition in which I was; and, rising, I made best of my way to the port. There I saw a long-boat just about to set off with a number of fellows, much in my own plight, and, taking a run, I sprung from the beach into the midst of them.

A man then demanded in English, if I was one of the ransomed? Yes, ransomed, ransomed, I cried, wonderfully ransomed indeed; whereupon, without further question, they set up their sail, and, in about two hours, we reached the ship which the consul had appointed to take them in.

For the remainder of that day, I continued

in a state that is hard to be conceived. My head and stomach, at times, were disordered by sick fits, and my soul hovered in an astonished and fearful kind of doze, as one not rightly awaked from a dream of horror.

Toward evening I threw myself down in the hold, and sunk into a state of utter oblivion, as I had not slept for the three foregoing nights and days.

The day following I found my body something refreshed, but the situation of my mind was like that of a disturbed and tumbling sea after a raging storm. I looked around for comfort, but no comfort was near; I looked far off for hope, but no hope came in prospect. The sense of existence became a misery under which I was not able to bear up; and, could I have had my wish, creation would again have been uncreated.

During the whole of our voyage I continued, very nearly, in this distemper of spirit. For though at times I would enter into the frolicks and jovial humours of the crew, yet my merriment, at such seasons, was a merriment to madness; and I would again sink, precipitately, into a depth of despondence, whose darkness would admit no ray of consolation.

The tempter would then urge me, by dagger, or by drowning, or by any means, to get rid of a being, that only served to torment me. But again, the dread that I might not get rid of that being, and that death might plunge me into a

perpetuity of those pangs in which I saw the wretched Barbar agonizing, this deterred me from hastening the day of my horrid doom, and so I waited in a gloomy and *fearful looking out for judgment.*

I would then call myself, at dead of night, before that terrible judgment, Thou fiend David, I would say, wherefore art thou sunk in guilt above all that ever were guilty? It was thy fortune to get three good and kind masters, good and kind above thy wants, and even up to thy wishes; and all these thou hast deceived, thou hast spoiled and betrayed them. Even the Master of all masters, the Master who was my freedom in the midst of my captivity, I was on the brink of denying the Jesus also; nay, I did reject, I did deny him, I promised, I engaged, to reject and deny him; and he will reject thee; through time, and through eternity, he will deny thee, David!

One evening a fearful tempest arose; and, while most of the crew gave some of their little matters to the provedore for liquors, and sat, drowning the sense of danger, and profanely carousing, at one end of the ship; my companions, who are present, were praying or singing glory to God in the other. Both parties invited me to join them, but I refused to be partaker with either; for I could not abet in others that wickedness which I condemned and detested in myself; and I could not think of taking into my execrable mouth the sacred name of that

Christ to whom I had so lately turned a false apostate. In the mean time, I held myself as the refugee Jonas, whose crimes brought perdition on all in the vessel; and I was on the point of advising the mariners to cast me out.

At length the tempest abated, but my perturbations did not abate. I wished to repent, but I deemed myself past the possibility of repentance; and thus I continued in a state of dissatisfaction and enmity against myself, against my God, against man and woman kind.

When the constables entered, and, by the order of Sir Thomas, laid hold on such a number of my late associates; though I thought that I did not care what became of me, yet Nature began to re-assert her rights; I trembled and turned exceeding pale, as I suppose; all my crimes came rushing together into my memory; I imagined, that they were exposed before your eyes also; and I expected, each moment, to be seized, like my fellow culprits, and thrown into a dungeon. But, when I found, that, instead of punishment, you proposed to load me with your bounties, all my sins appeared to me the more exceedingly sinful; your goodness came, in a heap, upon the head of my own guilt; and I fell prostrate at your feet, as under the weight of a mountain.

As soon as he had closed his story, Take courage and comfort to you, David, I cried. Your case is not near so desperate as your conscientious fears have formed it. Your error lay in trusting to your own sense of duty, and to the strength

of your own powers for resisting temptation; and the best man that ever breathed, with no better dependence, must inevitably have fallen, as you did, David. You now know your own weakness; you are taught, by repeated experience, that, in or of yourself, you no more can stand against the enemies of your soul, when they assail you, than a tree severed from its root, and barely set on end, can stand the assaults of a coming tempest. Keep therefore to your root, David. Never dare, in your own strength, to oppose yourself to a reed. Apply to the Rock, my friend, from whence you were hewn. Cling to him, repose upon him, put your whole confidence in him; and then your weakness shall become stronger than an army with banners; and neither life nor death, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, shall be able to separate you from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.

While I spoke, his eyes began to glisten, the cloud of his countenance cleared, his aspect assumed a chearful serenity, he could scarce have been known for the same person; and he cried, I will, I will, once more seek to my God; do you, my master, pray him to permit my approach; and in life, or in death, I never will let go my hold of him any more. He then would again have cast himself at my feet, but I hastened to prevent him.

David, said I, I am going to France, and before I set out, I should be greatly pleased to see

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you in some decent way of livelihood. Now, instead of the twenty pounds, of which you held yourself so unworthy, here are two hundred to make a kind of beginning for you, and I should be glad to know the use you propose to make of this money.

In the first place, Sir, said he, I will refund, to my two masters, all the money of which I defrauded them, with full or double interest, amounting, as I suppose, to seventy or eighty pounds. And, in the next place, I will return to your Honour every penny of the remainder; for indeed you shall not persuade me to trust myself with it. In my present way of thinking, it would be of no more use to me than the stones or dirt of the street. My state of slavery and labour was the only state of happiness that I have known since my birth; and I dread, I shudder at the apprehension of affluence. I am already but too rich, in having my liberty. I am now in a free country, and, therefore, lord of my own earnings. Matter of labour is but matter of play to me. The pay of a porter, on the spot where I am, will be too much of opulence; it will give me a further sufficiency to supply the wants of the needy, and the cravings of the beggar.

My good David, my beloved penitent, said the worthy Sir Thomas, and so saying he took him most cordially by the hand, how came you by that same walnut, the only remnant of all your treasures, which you called insignificant, and have yet retained to this day? You are as Pha-

zab to his chief butler. Sir, said David, you bring my faults fully into the remembrance of your servant.

While the Sultana, as I told you, was shewing and displaying to me the treasures of her cabinet, she desired me to take thereout whatever I held most rare or most estimable. But, as my covetous fit was not then upon me, I turned my eye on a few walnuts, that I saw in a corner, and taking one of them, said, that I would keep it for her sake. Swear to me then, she cried, that you will never break or open it, till you get into your own country. This was an easy condition, and I instantly complied with it.

Did you love the Sultana, David? Yes, Sir, to excess, as I am also persuaded that she loved me; and we vowed to intermarry, if ever it should be our fortune to regain our liberty; and, bound or free, never to marry another.

Let me look at your walnut, David, said Sir Thomas, you are now under no further injunction concerning it. Do not break it, I beseech you, then, Sir, said David, because I intend never to part with it. I will not break it, David, I will only open it with my knife, and a little matter of isinglass may soon repair the breach.

Sir Thomas then took the walnut, and having poised it for some time in his hand; I will give you a hundred guineas, David, said he, for your hazard of what this shell contains. I would take a hundred pence, Sir, said David, if I was inclined to take your money without giving va-

lue. Sir Thomas then took his knife, and, dividing the shell with the utmost caution, I have a strong fancy, David, said he, that I must soon raise the market; and instantly produced a diamond of the first water and magnitude.

We all started back and looked astonished; and David was the only person in company who, neither by word or look, expressed the smallest joy or satisfaction on the occasion.

Sir Thomas, who was a jeweller, having inspected the stone a while with much delight and admiration. Mr. David, said he, I would offer you seventeen hundred pieces for this diamond, if I did not think my offer considerably under the value, but I shall be a better judge when I have put it in the scales. Keep it, keep it, Sir, cried David, and heartily welcome; return me only the shell, it is all I will accept of. Then, turning to me a pale and alarmed aspect, Ah! Sir, said he, this is questionless another device of the tempter, I fear that I am not to get quit of my old associate so soon as I looked for. I do not think with you, David, in this matter, I replied. I rather conceive that Providence hath sent you this treasure at a time that he sees you will make a worthy use of it. Oh, Sir, he cried, if it shall ever again be my case to fall off from my God, I shall certainly run mad, or make away with myself. Why so, David? said I. You must not expect, all on a sudden, to jump into a sinless state. Such a state is only for those who have already fought the good fight, who have fi-

nished their course, who have kept the faith. Such a state is only for those in whom the Babe of Bethlehem is not only conceived, but grown up and become mature: These indeed cannot sin, but run, with a joyful and free will, into all sorts of goodness, as a stream is prone to run to its kindred and parent ocean. But as for such as you and I, brother David, we must be content to struggle on, and to fall and rise by turns. And though we should fall an hundred times a day, yea and be sore wounded also, my David, yet we should not despond, but turn as often to our Helper in total diffidence of ourselves, and full confidence in his mightiness. For he is almighty to lift us up whenever he thinks good, and the balm of Calvary is better than the balm of Gilead, to heal all our woundings.

I will tell you another secret, David, which I learned from a saint who is now in heaven: That the humbling state of frequent and conscious lapses is more eligible, and tending to higher blessedness for man, than the firmness and rectitude of an unfallen angel, because it saps self-confidence and creaturely dependence, and throws one wholly on the base that pillars up eternity.

Here he caught at my hand, and pressing his lips upon it, What shall I render you, my master, what shall I render you, he cried, for the peace and comfort which you have shed abroad through my bosom? I may now draw near to

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the throne of compassion, heavy laden with all my sins, that is to say, with all myself; and I will trust to free mercy for removing the burden, and to free grace alone for any good that shall ever be in me.

T H E E N D.



